

9:00 a.m.  
May 12, 2000

MINUTES -SPECIAL MEETING

Evergreen Plaza Bldg. Room 203  
711 Capitol Way South  
Olympia, Washington

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Brady, Chair  
Ronda Cahill, Vice Chair  
Christine Yorozu, Secretary  
Gerry Marsh, Member  
Dean Sutherland, Member

STAFF PRESENT

Susan Harris, Asst. Director  
Compliance & Enforcement  
Jean Wilkinson, Asst. Attorney  
General  
Ruthann Bryant, Secretary

The special meeting of the Public Disclosure Commission was called to order by Commission Chair Susan Brady at 9:00 a.m. in the Evergreen Plaza Building, Room 203, Olympia, Washington.

Personnel

The Commission discussed possible changes to the selection process and the timeline due to the selection of Vicki Rippie as a finalist for the position of executive director.

**Motion 00-148**

Moved by Commissioner Cahill, seconded by Commission Yorozu:

**The Commission amends the previous motion regarding staff participation in the interview process and determines that only commissioners, in conjunction with Assistant Attorney General Jean Wilkinson and Executive Search Services Consultant Judith Brighton, would be part of the interview process.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cahill also suggested that the Commission eliminate the background investigations since both candidates are presently state employees.

Commissioner Brady suggested that any further discussion on changes in the timeline would take place after the interview process. She also announced that the two finalists were Nate Ford and Vicki Rippie.

#### Executive Session

The Commission went into executive session at 9:30 a.m. to interview and evaluate the qualifications of the applicants for the position of executive director.

#### Public Session

The Commission returned to public session at 11:45 a.m. Commissioner Brady commented that both interviews had been very good and very encouraging. The Commission continued the discussion of deviating from the timeline with regard to background checks.

#### **Motion 00-149**

Moved by Commissioner Marsh, seconded by Commissioner Cahill:

**The Commission dispenses with background checks of the two finalists.**

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Motion 00-150**

Moved by Commissioner Cahill, seconded by Commissioner Marsh:

**The Commission advances the Recruitment Schedule and will immediately offer the position of Executive Director to the successful applicant.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Brady thanked the two finalists, noting that the interviews had been interesting and both applicants had been very well prepared.

Commissioner Marsh felt that both interviews were very good and that either one could do the job. He could be satisfied with either person.

Commissioner Yorozu commented that both candidates did an excellent job both in the interview and in preparation. She added that even though the pool was smaller than last time, they had better candidates. She thanked the Department of Personnel and feels lucky to have an in-house candidate who has the qualifications that have been demonstrated over the past several months. Commissioner Yorozu voiced her full support for Vicki Rippie as the new executive director.

Commissioner Brady agreed that both candidates presented themselves well. However, in looking at the agency at this point, the Commission has a significant challenge awaiting it during the next few months, and the acting executive director is fully prepared to move right in. She added her support for Vicki Rippie.

Commissioner Cahill concurred with the high quality of both candidates. She commented that Ms. Rippie has demonstrated her ability to grow into the job and has shown excellent performance as the acting director. She noted that Mr. Ford has a collaborative spirit and would make an excellent agency head for a lucky office, but she is comfortable in retaining the acting director in the official capacity.

Commissioner Sutherland added that because the PDC functions in a highly politically sensitive arena and given Mr. Ford's recent history of partisan participation, even though

Mr. Ford has shown the ability to set that aside, Commissioner Sutherland supports Ms. Rippie for the position.

Commissioner Marsh added that he has known Mr. Ford and feels that he would make an excellent director, although he supports Ms. Rippie as well.

**Motion 00-151**

Moved by Commissioner Cahill, seconded by Commissioner Yorozu:

**The Commission offers the position of Executive Director to Vicki L. Rippie to commence May 15, 2000, at the advertised salary of \$70,040.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rippie enthusiastically accepted the offer and considered herself most fortunate to be associated with a Commission of this caliber. Ms. Rippie thanked the commissioners for the vote of confidence and support.

Commissioner Sutherland conveyed appreciation to Mr. Ford for interviewing and suggested sending him a letter of appreciation. He added his appreciation to Mr. Ford for following through with research, a fine application and resume, a long interview with good answers and conversation, even under the circumstances of having an in-house candidate.

Commissioner Brady concurred and added her thanks to both candidates for agreeing to the public disclosure of their names as finalists for the position. She also thanked Ted Koska and Judith Brighton for their services, patience and guidance.

Adjournment

Commissioner Brady adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2000.

Approved by the Commissioner 6/20/00